



# **PROFESSIONAL GROUNDSKEEPERS** INSIGHTS AND ADVICE FROM

# **TIPS FROM THE PROS**

### PROFESSIONAL FIELD MAINTENANCE TIPS

01	Do It Right The First Time Plus Field Safety Check   05–08
02	Create Safe High-Performance Infields   08
03	Use Proper Dragging Techniques   09–10
04	Maintain The Perfect Base Path   11
05	Water Is Your Most Important Maintenance Tool   12
06	Make Puddles A Thing Of The Past   13
07	Mound Repair and Maintenance   14–19
80	Turface Athletics <sup>®</sup> For Outstanding Natural Grass   20–21

"For over twenty-five years in professional baseball, I have relied on the consistency and quality of Turface calcined clay products for my infield dirt, mound, home plate and baselines. The product has always enhanced the safety and playability of my fields."

"



LARRY DIVITO Head Groundskeeper Minnesota Twins

### PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Turface<sup>®</sup> products enable fields to perform to their fullest, through wet springs and dry summers—on more fields across America than any other brand. For over 50 years, no one has done it better.

Turface is a sports field conditioner, not crushed aggregate like brick dust and vitrified clay, which are commonly used as infield colorants. If you already have these materials on your field, Turface should be incorporated into the mix to prevent compaction and to improve moisture absorption.

Become part of Turface Athletics® and you'll get a broad range of infield and soil conditioners to prevent rainouts and maximize safety on any athletic field. You'll also be connected to the industry's largest network of sports field knowledge.

### TURFACE IS THE #1 CHOICE AT EVERY LEVEL OF BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL, PROVIDING MAJOR LEAGUE COLOR AND PERFORMANCE.

- Preferred by Major and Minor League groundskeepers
- Relied on by thousands of high school and college coaches
- Used by thousands of park and recreational facilities
- Chosen for Olympic baseball and softball fields





### **ON SKINNED INFIELDS**

<u>Turface MVP®</u> improves drainage and reduces compaction, while <u>Turface Quick Dry®</u> eliminates puddles and standing water. For the ultimate fielding and sliding surface, use <u>Turface® Elite™</u> (Natural, Red, Heritage Red<sup>™</sup> or Champion Brown<sup>™</sup>).





TURFACE" ELITE" HERITAGE RED" An appealing and rich cherrywood color, whether it is wet or dry.



TURFACE<sup>®</sup> ELITE<sup>™</sup> CHAMPION BROWN

A unique, deep, dark color for a first-class look and provides excellent ball visibility.



TURFACE"
ELITE" RED
This classic color
is a popular choice
to enhance infield
appearance.

TURFACE® ELITE® NATURAL Non-dyed condition

Non-dyed conditioner delivers exceptional performance and a classic look.



### ON TURF

<u>Field & Fairway<sup>™</sup></u> Emerald can be used to conceal worn areas of your turf, absorb water to make muddy areas playable, and improve soil all the way down through the root zone.





### CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Turface SAF<sup>™</sup> Diamond Select and SAF Diamond Mix have higher sand content and are competitively priced.



# 

### DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

"Being able to build a field from scratch or make major enhancements to an existing field is a groundskeeper's dream. It is a chance to eliminate or correct any problems from the get-go and set yourself, crew and field's users up for long-term success and enjoyment. You only get one chance at building a field, so you have to make the most of the opportunity. Money and time spent wisely during construction/ renovation will save money and time in years to come."





**GRANT TRENBEATH** 

Head Groundskeeper Arizona Diamondbacks

### GRANT'S TIPS

- Sub-grade should direct water away from the infield and toward drainage lines.
- Trenches need to be graded so that drain lines use gravity to help get water off the field.
- Install vertical blow out access to drain lines for easy cleaning in case they clog.
- Strategically place quick coupler valves during irrigation layout for easy hand watering later. Place in middle of the infield behind the pitcher's mound, in the short outfield beyond the back arc of the infield, and around the perimeter of the outfield/sidelines/warning track. It's nice to be able to reach and water any area on your field using a single 100' hose.
- Consult an irrigation specialist to ensure proper selection of irrigation heads/nozzles and spacing/field layout design of irrigation heads.
   Be mindful of the location and placement of irrigation valves, so they can be accessed for maintenance/repair/winter blowout.
- When measuring out a field, GPS can be used, but it is still good practice to do the measuring the old-school way, with steel tape measures. If you do use GPS to measure out a field, it's still good practice to double check those measurements with steel tape measures. Make sure to double check your tape measures

to see if they have a dead foot or not, and where the "0" mark is.

- When preparing a final grade, use laser equipment for a precise grade/slope.
   Consider the thickness of your sod if you do not seed or sprig before finalizing the grade.
- Regardless of the base material your field is on/constructed of (natural or imported material), getting your field graded properly, to help with surface water flow among other things, should be a priority, and will help with turnaround times after weather events.
- Infield mix should be a good clay/silt/sand blend based on your region/field schedule/ maintenance level.
- Incorporate Turface MVP<sup>®</sup> or Turface<sup>®</sup> Elite<sup>™</sup> into infield mix to help with drainage and provide a safe, consistent surface.
- Turface dragged into the top ½" to ¾" protects the clay base by retaining moisture and providing a very smooth surface.
- Use pure clay (Turface<sup>®</sup> MoundMaster<sup>®</sup> Blocks or Professional Mound Clay<sup>®</sup>) on the mound and batter's boxes. Topdress with a light coating of Turface MVP or Turface Elite.
- Hand rake base paths lengthwise to prevent lips.



### FIELD SAFETY CHECK

The #1 concern for coaches and groundskeepers is the safety of athletes that play on their fields. The only way to accomplish this is to work your field every day and look for hazards. Scan the code for a comprehensive 90-point field audit guide and worksheet.



### TURFACE® BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RENOVATION

Turface is used by more groundskeepers than any other sports field conditioner because of the quality and conditioning Turface provides to the infield soil. Turface ensures a safe field that holds up to rain and gives athletes a chance to perform at their best. Expect major league results when you incorporate Turface MVP<sup>®</sup> into your diamonds.

### TURFACE MVP: COMPLETE INFIELD RENOVATION



Moisten the skinned area. Spread Turface MVP bags evenly throughout the skinned areas to be renovated. Depending on the amount of Turface required, align the bags 42" to 60" apart in both directions.



Once Turface MVP bags are properly positioned, open bags and dump material. Remove all Turface bags from the field.



 STEP 3:
 ST

 With a blade, mat drag, or landscape rakes, level all of the Turface piles and spread evenly
 Rot



Rototill the Turface MVP into the existing infield mix to a depth of 3" to 4". Drag the infield with a mat drag to break up clumping. Level the field.



across the surface.

Roll the infield with a one-ton roller or a hand roller. This helps speed up the settling process, allowing the field to firm up more quickly.



Slowly drag the infield twice with a mat drag. This will loosen the surface to a desired consistency and level any visible low spots. After, rake or sweep all edges to remove any loose material from the turf. This will prevent any lips from forming.

### TURFACE MVP®: APPLICATION RATES TILLED 4" DEEP

### Renovation Chart: Entire Skinned Area

BASEBALL*	SOFTBALL*	LITTLE LEAGUE*		
10 tons	9 tons	3 tons		
Approx. Rate: 1 ton (1,500 kg) of Turface MVP				

### **Other Applications**

Progressive	Infield	Renovation**
FIUGIESSIVE	mineiu	Renovation

BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	LITTLE LEAGUE
3 tons	2 tons	1 ton

\*Assumes grass infield; use double the amount of Turface if completely skinned.\*\*Annually over 3-4 years.

Turface MVP®

Other Applications				
	BASEBALL	LITTLE LEAGUE		
Pitcher's Mound	2 bags	1-2 bags		
Home Plate	4 bags	2-3 bags		
Base Paths	2 bags	1-2 bags		

Use 50-Ib bags; rake into the surface. To topdress with  $V_8$ " of Turface, apply at a rate of 375 lbs per 1,000 sq ft.

### TURFACE® ELITE™: APPLICATION RATES

Topdressing or Color			
BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	LITTLE LEAGUE	
2 tons	1-2 tons	1 ton	



Turface® Elite™ Champion Brown™



Turface<sup>®</sup> Elite<sup>™</sup>

Heritage Red<sup>™</sup>



Turface®Elite™ Red

### **TURFACE MVP OR ELITE:** PROGRESSIVE INFIELD RENOVATION (4-5 YEARS)



Lightly moisten the skinned area to loosen the surface in preparation for mixing the Turface MVP into the soil. Do not soak.



Spread 2-3 tons of Turface MVP evenly over the infield.



Nail drag the infield twice, working the Turface MVP into the top 1" to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the playing surface. This will ensure that the Turface is incorporated evenly.



### WINNING ON A SMALL BUDGET WITH TURFACE®

Lack of funds are all too common for coaches and groundskeepers and result in decisions to purchase brick dust/vitrified clay, limestone screenings, shale, sand or other by-products to try and keep a field playable during rain. These products do not condition a field like Turface® and may lead to larger problems down the road. Turface has a degradation factor of just 3% over 20 years, lasting season after season to condition fields. If your budget prevents you from doing a complete renovation, apply 2 to 3 tons of Turface into the top 1" to 1 ½" with a nail drag. You will see immediate improvement while working your way to a completely renovated field in 4 to 5 years.

### **TIP #2** CREATE SAFE HIGH-PERFORMANCE INFIELDS

"We've been using Turface calcined clay conditioner on our fields since our facility opened in 2011. Turface Elite helps provide a safe, consistent playing surface which allows athletes of all talent levels to perform at their highest capability. Turface will continue to be an integral part of our maintenance practices for many years to come."

TIPS FROM THE PROS

MARSHALL JENNINGS

### Head Groundskeeper Salt River Fields

### CALCINED CLAY-THE #1 CHOICE

Turface MVP®, Turface® Elite<sup>™</sup>, Quick Dry® and Field & Fairway<sup>™</sup> are calcined clay products manufactured specifically to condition sports fields to improve drainage, reduce compaction and absorb excess water. Tremendous variation exists between Turface calcined clays and other products. Many materials are considered field conditioners, and many claim to be "just like" Turface. However, the degradation of Turface calcined clay is just 3% over 20 years – far superior to other "field conditioners" that degrade or melt back down to clay in a few days.

### **TURFACE IS THE #1 CHOICE**

of groundskeepers because of its unique mineral properties and the manufacturing process, which produces a very stable, uniform particle with consistent color and little dust.



### USE PROPER DRAGGING TECHNIQUES

"Dragging is an essential practice that when performed properly, will ensure your infield skin surface will stay in top shape. When done incorrectly, maintenance issues can and will happen. There are a variety of drags out there for different applications. The most common drags are the nail drag, mat drag, rigid drag and cocoa mat drag. Nail dragging will help smooth out any cleat marks or small blemishes after a game. It also helps to incorporate Turface into the top portion of infield material. After nail dragging, you want to use the mat drag or cocoa mat to break up any clumps and smooth out your surface for your next event."

### TIPS FROM THE PROS



JORDAN TREADWAY

Director of Grounds and Facilities Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium

### DRAGGING PATTERNS

Dragging your infield daily is a common practice at most complexes and stadiums. Always change up your drag pattern directions and your starts/stops to ensure you don't develop high and or low spots along with creating inconsistencies on your surface. You can also use a leveling bar in front of your mat drag to help knock down material that has built up by bases. By using the leveling bar, it spreads out your material along the bar and doesn't allow it to make it to the drag, eliminating low and high spots. By mixing it up, you can keep a level, consistent surface throughout the season, allowing your infield to surface drain and return to play quicker and properly.

### INFIELD DRAGGING

- Remove bases and place plugs into anchor sleeves.
- After big rains, use a level board to pull back material from your back edges before dragging to help prevent lips and to ensure proper drainage.
- Water your infield to ensure proper moisture to allow your nail drag to loosen the top ¼" of infield mix to smooth out cleat marks.
- Hand drag or hand rake around bases and cutouts to cut down high areas.
- Always nail drag at least two directions to help get a smooth surface and not to create build ups in one direction.

- To achieve a nice smooth, finished surface, begin mat dragging after the infield surface has dried. Alternate your dragging patterns and starts/stops.
- When using an infield groomer, drag slowly and stay 6" from the turf edge to avoid pushing conditioner into your turf.
- Edges, home plate and baselines should be worked by hand with rakes, nail drags and finally a hand mat.
- Match drag widths to base path dimensions so one or two full passes completes the task.
- Monitor your nail drag throughout the season and sharpen/replace your nails as needed.



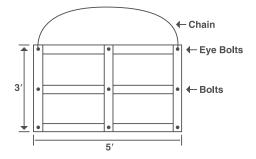
### BUILD A NAIL DRAG

### A NAIL DRAG IS THE IDEAL TOOL FOR MAINTAINING A SMOOTH AND CONSISTENT INFIELD SURFACE.

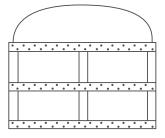
By using a nail drag on a Turface® infield, your field will have the look and feel of a professional ballpark. Use the following components to build your nail drag:

- Build with 2" x 4" wood
- 2 Pre-drill straight holes for nails
- 3 Use 40 penny nails
- 4 Stagger nails 1 ¾" apart 2 rows in each board
- 5 Use a 1" x 4" piece of wood to cover 2" x 4" on top to hold in nails
- Screw eye bolts into the corners of the drag so that a chain can be attached to pull the drag
- 7 Different sizes can be built to accommodate your infield, baselines and home plate

### TOP VIEW



### **BOTTOM VIEW**





### MAINTAIN THE PERFECT BASE PATH

"A firm base path means a fast base path. With this in mind, it is important to keep your base paths firm and level. We use 100% clay on the first and third base paths topped with Turface. After every event you should sweep the soil out of the grass. Use a hose to wash the soil out of the grass if the lips become bigger."

### TIPS FROM THE PROS



**MATT EGGERMAN** 

Director of Field Operations Ballpark of the Palm Beaches

### OUTSTANDING BASE PATHS

- Till 2 bags of Turface MVP<sup>®</sup> or Turface<sup>®</sup> Elite<sup>™</sup> into the top 2" of the dirt along your first and third base paths. Moisten base paths without saturating. Roll your base paths until firm.
- Frequently level, water and roll the first base area to keep firm and prevent bad hops. There's less clay here, and rolling is a must.
- Spread 2 or 3 bags of Turface MVP or Turface Elite over the surface of the base paths for maximum moisture control and surface consistency.
- If rain is expected, add another bag of Turface MVP or Turface Elite so you do not have to come out to add Turface during a light rain.
- Hand rake base paths lengthwise to prevent lips.

Our process at the Ballpark typically starts the day before the game, initiating a base level of moisture by applying a heavy watering even to the point of standing water to allow moisture to penetrate down in to the profile. Once base level moisture is established, we are only tasked with managing the surface level moisture. This can be accomplished with quick shots of light water around pregame work to maintain the established moisture level.

Turface SlideMaster<sup>™</sup> topdressing aids us in our infield maintenance by providing a consistent, smooth surface for play while also allowing water to pass through to the infield mix and act as insulation to help hold moisture longer.



### TURFACE SLIDEMASTER<sup>™</sup>

THE ULTIMATE SLIDING SURFACE

Turface SlideMaster is a shale topdressing that aids in infield maintenance by providing a consistent, smooth surface for play while also allowing water to pass through to the infield mix. It acts as insulation to help hold moisture longer and provide a consistent sliding surface game after game!



### WATER IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT MAINTENANCE TOOL

"Proper infield maintenance is virtually impossible without water. Proper infield moisture is the key ingredient for a professional quality infield."

### TIPS FROM THE PROS



DAN KIERMAIER Head Groundskeeper Chicago Cubs

### WATER INFIELD DAILY OR AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE

If the infield is not watered properly, it will become either rock hard or powdery. Neither is good for the athletes. To maintain good moisture levels, start early in the day. I start watering 8 to 10 hours before a game and water heavily. Water must migrate deeply into the infield soil. Moisture provides your infield with body and holds the soil together resulting in firm footing for the athlete. Weather will dictate how much water is needed to be applied right at game time, and I hand water with a hose before the game. Incorporating Turface® MVP® or Turface® Elite<sup>™</sup> is essential for a conditioned infield because Turface® absorbs moisture and slowly releases it back into the soil, creating a balanced moisture reservoir in the infield mix. Turface helps regulate the need for watering.

### WATER TURF DEEPLY

Once you have established turf on your field, it is best to irrigate deeply once or twice a week (avoid frequent, light watering). This forces roots to seek water down in the soil, resulting in a stronger, deeper root system. **Remember:** Water your turf immediately after an event for improved recuperation.

### WATER PITCHER'S MOUND AND BATTER'S BOXES OFTEN TO KEEP CLAY MOIST

Because your pitcher's mound and batter's boxes are constructed with heavy packing clay, it is necessary to keep them moist to prevent them from cracking. Covering your pitcher's mound and home plate areas after a light watering is the ideal maintenance practice. If you do not cover these areas, coating them with a light covering of Turface MVP or Turface Elite can assist in maintaining moisture levels in these areas.

### MANAGING INFIELD MOISTURE

- Water early in the day (8 to 10 hours before game time), slowly and heavily to let water migrate deeply into the soil profile.
- Condition your soil with Turface MVP or Turface Elite to absorb moisture and slowly release it back into the soil. This maintains a uniform release of moisture for optimum firmness.
- Nail drag in a couple of tons of Turface each year to help regulate surface moisture.



Have someone hold your hose to avoid dragging across the infield.

### MAKE PUDDLES A THING OF THE PAST

"Establishing a firm base for stable footing and traffic while also applying the appropriate moisture to allow for true ball bounce and play is a fine balance that can vary day to day.

There are several factors to consider that affect the amount of infield moisture needed daily: game time, pregame needs, and of course all factors pertaining to the weather forecast. How best to set up your infield daily is dependent on your level of play and the expectations of the end user."

### TIPS FROM THE PROS



LARRY DIVITO Head Groundskeeper Minnesota Twins

### PUDDLE PREVENTION

- Maintain grade around bases and in player positions. Fill low spots with infield mix and topdress with Turface MVP or Turface Elite.
- Remove puddles as soon as possible to prevent surrounding areas from getting saturated.
- Minimize or remove lips so water can drain.
- Keep the infield moisture level lower when rain is expected.
- Keep mounds and home plate areas covered since these high clay areas are the hardest to dry out.



### TURFACE QUICK DRY<sup>®</sup>

PROTECTION AGAINST RAINOUTS

Turface Quick Dry<sup>®</sup> is what you need when you have standing water on the field. Proper field grading and a preventative topdressing layer of Turface can prevent puddling, but in a pinch, Quick Dry rapidly absorbs water with the fine calcined clay particles in the bag. Just pour, rake and play! Quick Dry will not harden or cake, letting you return to play right away.

### JUST POUR, RAKE AND PLAY!









## **TIP #7** -

### MOUND REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

"No areas around the diamond or in the bullpen receive more wear and tear than pitcher's mounds, batter's boxes and catcher's boxes. It is crucial these areas be properly maintained to assure on-the-field safety and playability, pitch after pitch. The performance and durability of 5-Star Clay, Turface Mound Clays and MoundMaster Blocks provide the right foundation, allowing athletes at every level to compete to the best of their abilities."





IZZY HINOJOSA Director of Field Operations Houston Astros



### 5-STAR<sup>™</sup> PACKING CLAY

A competitively priced, premium clay that combines professional looks and reliable performance with easy installation and maintenance. High density material with a high silt and clay content provides strong bonding during installation and durability against ongoing wear, even with large athletes. Just open the bag, pour and pack.



### **PROFESSIONAL MOUND CLAY® RED**

Featuring the same virgin red clay used in MoundMaster Blocks, this finely shredded bagged clay is great for easy shaping on the mound. It also works well for filling in holes dug out by cleats as part of an ongoing plate and mound maintenance routine.



### TURFACE<sup>®</sup> MOUNDMASTER<sup>®</sup> BLOCKS

These pre-compressed blocks have a high density for increased durability, yet are pliable, and are ready for use right out of the bag. They're made of 100% pure virgin red clay to deliver professional, long-lasting performance and sized right for building batter's and catcher's boxes and mounds from the ground up. There are 8 blocks per page; 304 blocks per pallet. Bags are sealed to keep blocks moist and ready to use.

### Recommended MoundMaster Block Renovation

Pitcher's M	lound		Batter's Box		
	FULL SIZE	REDUCED SIZE		FULL SIZE	REDUCED SIZE
Plateau	53 blocks	46 blocks	Batter's Box (total)	216 blocks	126 blocks
Landing Area	111 blocks	91 blocks	Catcher's Box	75 blocks	36 blocks
TOTAL	164 blocks	137 blocks	TOTAL	291 blocks	162 blocks

304 blocks per pallet (blocks are 2 1/2" x 4" x 8")



"I've used Turface products throughout my coaching career and I've never been disappointed. Their 5-Star Packing Clay is our go-to choice for plate and mound repair. It's ready to go right out of the bag, tamps down easily, and it is extremely durable. All of these things lead to less time and labor spent on field maintenance, which means we get to spend more time with our team."

> LANCE SPIGNER Head Baseball Coach Rich Mountain

"We've had great success using Turface 5-Star Packing Clay for several years in an unforgiving desert climate. Game after game, 5-Star shows why it's the best playing surface for professional ball players. Pitchers stride with confidence knowing their landing will be consistent time after time and hitters dig in to a firm, yet pliable playing surface to have their best foundation. It's easy to pick this product based off the results we get. Not to mention 5-Star is ready to use right out of the bag."

> BRIAN MITCHELL Head Groundskeeper Midland Rock Hounds



### MARMOUND<sup>®</sup> ALL-PURPOSE PACKING CLAY<sup>®</sup>

Firm up soft, sandy areas of your infield with this affordable, easy-to-use, alternative gray packing clay. Players will appreciate the safer footing and consistent ball hops.



### TURFACE<sup>®</sup> MOUND CLAY INSTALLATION

Easy steps to safe and durable pitching mounds and batter's boxes. **Tools required:** tamp, rake, shovel, broom, watering can and a slope board for the mound.

### INSTALLATION SEQUENCE:



Excavate the front slope of your mound to a 4" to 6" depth. Batter's boxes and catcher's box to a 4" depth.



Moisten the bottom of the hole with water. Add an inch of Turface Professional Mound Clay<sup>®</sup>, and with a rake, cut into the soil for proper bonding. Tamp firmly. Lightly moisten, but do not drown and tamp again.



Evenly add an inch of new PMC at a time to the area you are working. Tamp until firm. Water the area lightly, but do not drown. Repeat step 3. As you reach the surface level, reduce the amount of water you add to the PMC.



Once you reach the surface of the mound, use a rake to rough grade the slope in front of the mound. Tamp or roll the slope for a smooth surface. Add PMC to any low spots and use your rake to cut down the high spots. After leveling, tamp or roll again.



Add a final coating of water on the PMC areas once all grades and slopes are set and rolled. Finally, topdress all PMC areas with ¼" of infield mix and top with Turface® MVP® or Turface® Elite™ to match the color of your infield.

### BATTER'S BOX INSTALLATION (BLOCKS AND CLAY)



Excavate the batter's box 3" deep.



Install MoundMaster® Blocks, moisten, tamp, then fully water and allow to soak in for 20 minutes.



Apply a thin layer of Professional Mound Clay (match color to blocks), moisten and tamp.



Cover with a ¼" layer of infield mix to finish grade. Top entire home plate or mound area with Turface MVP or Turface Elite.

	4" depth	6" depth
Table	10 bags	16 bags
Landing Area	20 bags	28 bags
Batter's Boxes	38 bags	56 bags
Catcher's Box	12 bags	20 bags
TOTAL	80 bags	120 bags

### Approximate Number of 50-lb Bags for Mound and Plate Area

Number of bags may vary depending on the size of the mound and batter's box. One pallet contains 40 bags. One bag weighs 50 pounds. One bag covers 5 square feet x 1" thick (compacted).

### **MOUNDMASTER BLOCK INSTALLATION**

When installing MoundMaster blocks, it's important to place the blocks 10" before the shortest stride and 10" farther than the longest landing foot of your pitchers. Remember, too, they may pitch from either edge of the rubber, so the entire table around the mound should be built with MoundMaster Blocks.

INSTALLATION SEQUENCE:



Outline your landing areas and plateau using a mound gauge to obtain the desired slope. Excavate 3" below the surface. Level and tamp firm.



Excavate the landing area and be 10" wider and longer than the longest stride of your pitchers. Blocks should be within a ½" of the surface.



Wedge the blocks into position.



Fill around blocks with adjacent soil and tamp to wedge together.



Tamp and water thoroughly several times for about an hour. Allow water to be absorbed into clay so blocks swell. Tamp firmly between watering.



Apply a thin layer of Professional Mound Clay (match color to blocks), moisten and tamp.



Add a light coating of infield mix and top with Turface MVP or Turface Elite. Consider using Turface Elite Heritage Red<sup>™</sup> to provide color contrast on your mound and plate areas.



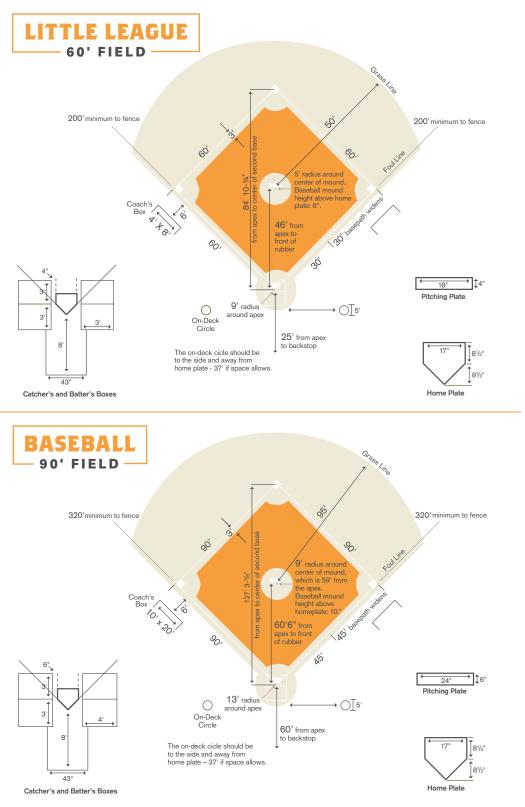
To repair holes, cut up blocks or use Professional Mound Clay. Before repairing, sweep out hole to expose pure packing clay. Moisten exposed packing clay, add repair clay and pack using the bottom of a rake handle. Add more clay and repeat as necessary to reach a level surface.

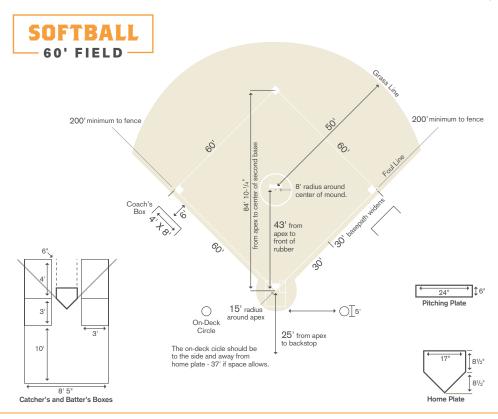


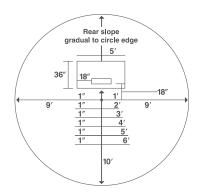
Cover your mound with a plastic tarp to hold moisture.













### PITCHING RUBBER ALIGNMENT

On a 90' field (high school, college or pro), the front of the pitching rubber must be 60' 6" from the apex (point) of home plate and the top of the rubber should be 10" above home plate. Follow these simple steps to set up your pitching rubber:

- The pitching rubber is 24" long. Take a pencil and mark a line down the center.
- 2 Take a string from the apex of home plate and extend it to the second base peg.
- 3 Measure 60' 6" from the tip of home plate and sink a spike. This marks the front of the rubber.
- Take a transit level and obtain a reading off home plate. The top of the pitching rubber must be 10" above home plate. Build or reduce height of the mound accordingly. If a transit level is not available, drive a stake at the apex of home plate measuring 10" high. Run a tight string over the pitching rubber and hang string level. Adjust the rubber height until line is level.
- 5 Square the rubber into position by taking a measuring tape and measure from the front left corner of home plate to the front left corner of the pitching rubber. Do the same on the right side. When these two measurements are equal, the rubber will be squared. Make sure that the rubber measures 12" on each side of the anchored spike.

**Hint:** If building a mound from scratch, it is a good idea to place a solid concrete block under the rubber to keep it from shifting.



### FOR OUTSTANDING NATURAL GRASS

TIPS FROM THE PROS



KEN MROCK Head Groundskeeper Chicago Bears

### 6 STEPS TO WINNING NATURAL GRASS FIELDS (CORE AERIFICATION PROGRAM FOR THE SPRING AND FALL)

- Turface<sup>®</sup> is not just an outstanding infield soil conditioner. It has been used extensively to modify turf soils, adding permanent water-, nutrient- and air-holding pore space.
- Many Major League Baseball, NFL, college and high school fields use Field & Fairway<sup>™</sup> to absorb water and amend soils.
- Field & Fairway is successfully used in high compaction areas of golf courses, and high traffic landscape areas of hotels and office complexes.
- Use Field & Fairway during construction, after aerification, or to improve your topdressing blend.



Core aerify with multiple passes when conditions are proper to achieve maximum depth. Allow plugs to dry. Avoid aerification in high heat (80°+ F).



Apply Field & Fairway at a rate of 500 lb per 1,000 sq ft. You can use a topdresser, drop or push spreader fully open to evenly apply product.



Overseed aggressively to establish a denser stand of turf. Seeds that germinate in aerification holes have crowns set slightly below ground, providing extra protection for the turf. Contact a local Turface/Profile distributor for the recommended seed blend needed for your area.



Slowly drag the entire turf area with a mat drag to force materials into the turf and aerification holes. Best results occur if plugs are allowed to dry.



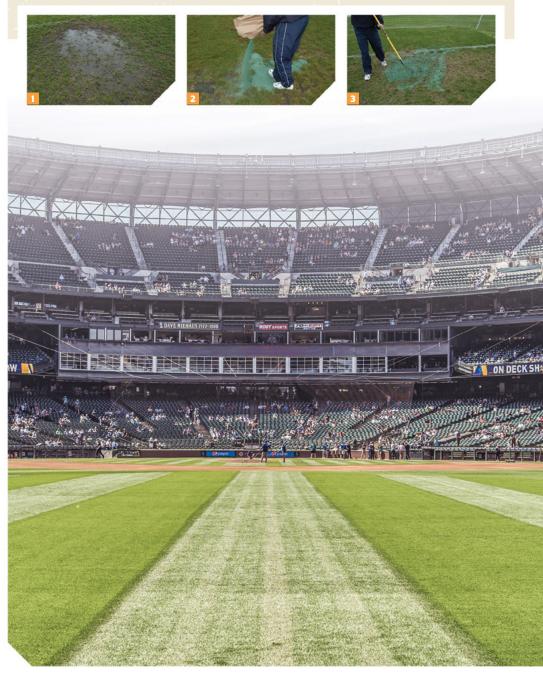
Apply spring fertilizer only **after** the turf flushes with natural spring growth. Premature application forces an early flush and leaves the turf with no food. Contact a local Turface/Profile distributor to test your soil to determine proper types and amounts of fertilizer needed.



Water the entire field, but do not soak. Puddling may cause seeds to float, resulting in uneven growth.

### JUST POUR, RAKE AND PLAY!

If the rains have already come—it's not too late. Field & Fairway instantly absorbs water for a safer playing surface. Apply Field & Fairway at a rate of 500 pounds per 1,000 square feet to dry up muddy areas and create a safer, stable playing surface. In areas with standing water, dump and rake as necessary to eliminate water and mud.





### TURFACE ATHLETICS® / MORE VIDEO TIPS

The Turface® Grounds Crew<sup>™</sup> video library has been expanded. Now even more instructional information and "how-to" tips are available to help you improve and maintain sports fields. A few of the recently added topics to help you provide safe and playable surfaces include <u>How to Choose Infield Conditioner Color</u>, <u>Tools of the Trade</u> and <u>Additional Uses for Turface</u>. New videos are being produced all the time, so check back often to view the latest additions at TURFACE.COM/VIDEOS.



TURFACE.COM | 800 207.



©2023. All Minor League Baseball trademarks and copyrights are used with permission.

All rights reserved. Visit MiLB.com.

inthenet.com









### **KEEP AMERICA PLAYING.**

BECAUSE OF THE VALUED PARTNERSHIPS WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH THESE OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONS, WE ARE EVEN BETTER ABLE TO FURTHER OUR COMMITMENT TO



For more than 50 years, Turface has been a leading force for groundskeepers, coaches and volunteers. Now, you can gain access to industry-leading education, consultation, premier products and member-only discounts by joining the Turface® Grounds Crew<sup>™</sup>.

### TURFACEGROUNDSCREW.COM

### TURFACE<sup>®</sup> ELITE<sup>™</sup> choose the industry's best conditioner

Protect your field and enhance your ability to manage moisture effectively with Turface® Elite™: a highly durable infield conditioner. Create a professional playing surface for both fielding and sliding and experience elite performance with truer ball hops, a more dependable infield and fewer rainouts.

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FROM TURFACE ATHLETICS® KEEP YOUR FIELD IN TOP PLAYING CONDITION

Whether you're a professional groundskeeper, a volunteer coach, or parent, you can find a wealth of information, including instructional videos, field schematics and industry links online: **TURFACE.COM/EDUCATION**.



**Turface Athletics** 





Turface.com Phone: 800.207.6457 • Fax: 847.215.0577

750 W. Lake Cook Road, Suite 440 Buffalo Grove IL, 60089

### T-01 03/23

Turface Athletics, Turface, MVP, Quick Dry, MoundMaster, Professional Mound Clay, MarMound, All-Purpose Packing Clay, Profile and Solutions for your Environment are registered trademarks of PROFILE Products LLC. Your Home Field Advantage, Elite, Heritage Red, Champion Brown, Field & Fairway, SlideMaster, SAF, 5-Star and Turface Grounds Crew are trademarks of PROFILE Products LLC.

